

Town Manager's Newsletter

May 2022



Jodi Ross, Town Manager

jross@westfordma.gov www.westfordma.gov/tm

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Apple Blossom Festival Parade Saturday, May 14, 10AM

Memorial Day Observance Sunday, May 29 See Page 6 for Schedule of Events

Annual Town Meeting June 11, 9AM (June 12 rain date) Westford Academy Field



Watch Westford community access television www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

The Westford Kiwanis will be holding their 53rd Apple Blossom Festival, which begins on Wednesday, May 11th and continues through Sunday, May 15th. The Apple Blossom Festival includes a parade, fireworks show, and carnival. To find out more information and see a schedule of events, please visit the following link: <u>2022 Apple Blossom Festival</u>.

Our Memorial Day observance will take place on Sunday, May 29th, as we honor our service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The day will begin with ceremonies throughout town at 9:00 AM. A reading of the Westford military honor roll will begin at 10:15 AM on the Town Common, followed by a parade at noon. For more information, you may call the Veterans Services Department at (978) 392-1170 or visit the following link: Veterans Services Department.

This year's Annual Town Meeting is quickly approaching and will be held on Saturday, June 11th at 9:00 AM (continuing to Sunday, June 12th as a rain date or if needed), outside at the Westford Academy Trustees Field, located at 30 Patten Road. We encourage attendees to arrive by 8:30 AM to allow time for check-in. We recommend bringing water, sunscreen, and a hat or umbrella for sun protection. The Twizted Pickle food truck will be available serving breakfast (beginning at 8:15 AM) and lunch (which we will break for at approximately noon). The full text of the Town Meeting Warrant and Motions are available online at the following link: 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The following is a summary of the articles to be voted on by Town Meeting:

Article 1 seeks to authorize the use of Electronic Vote Tabulators at Town Meeting

Article 2 seeks to accept the 2021 Annual Town Reports

Article 3 seeks an appropriation of \$234,223 from Free Cash to supplement the FY22 Snow and Ice operating budget

Article 4 seeks an appropriation of \$45,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of providing remediation funds to address DEP requirements regarding perchlorate contamination

Article 5 seeks approval to fund the following Fiscal Year 2022 capital appropriations:

\$1,492,796 in Free Cash for the following capital projects:

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	
Technology	\$46,000	Town computer replacements	
Technology	\$106,796	School computer replacements	
Technology	\$193,000	Network upgrades	
Technology	\$102,000	Server & storage replacements	
Schools	\$250,000	Central office feasibility and redistricting study	
Schools	\$90,000	Replacement refrigerator and freezer at the Rita E. Miller School	
Schools	\$56,000	Mail courier vehicle, purchase and equip	
Schools	\$49,000	Replacement truck with plow, purchase and equip	
Engineering	\$100,000	Boston Road appraisals	
Engineering	\$45,000	Design: West Street at East Prescott Street pedestrian safety improvements	
Engineering \$40,000		Design and construction: Carlisle Road at Jack Walsh Recreation Area	
		pedestrian safety improvements	
Engineering	\$70,000	Design: Plain Road Phase II pedestrian safety improvements	
Highway	\$65,000	One-ton dump truck with plow, purchase and equip	
Wastewater	\$270,000	Lloyd G. Blanchard Middle School wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation	
Library	\$10,000	Cost estimating for the J.V. Fletcher Library renovation and expansion project	

- \$425,000 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to replace the Depot Street well and Forge Village water treatment plan dehumidifier
- \$49,000 in Free Cash and \$24,000 from Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings to provide funding for the following capital request:

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Ambulance Enterprise	\$73,000	Two rescue boats, purchase and equip

- \$1,040,000 to upgrade the public safety radio system to fully digital
- \$670,000 for the construction of the Plain Road Phase 1 pedestrian safety improvements
- \$500,000 from Stormwater Enterprise for the design of culvert replacements at 185 North Main Street,
 40 Forge Village Road, and Cold Spring Road near Old Homestead Road
- \$80,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund

Article 6 seeks an appropriation of \$1,100,000 for the Cameron Senior Center HVAC Replacement Project and allows the Select Board to enter into an Energy Management Services Agreement with Ameresco

Article 7 seeks an appropriation of \$505,000 to design, construct, furnish and equip a new fire training facility to be located at 60 Forge Village Road, and establishes a special purpose stabilization fund for the possible future facility relocation should it no longer be needed on said property, or if it is deemed to interfere with land use for water supply purposes, and transfer \$75,000 from capital stabilization into said fund

Article 8 seeks an appropriation of \$1,150,386 from available Community Preservation Funds and authorizes the Select Board to enter into grant agreements with any private entities receiving funding, and further authorizes the Select Board to acquire appropriate deed restrictions as may be required or appropriate pursuant to the Community Preservation Act:

\$332,874	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This allocation more than funds the required 10% for Community Housing	Affordable Housing Trust
\$190,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Conservation Trust Fund for future open space land purchases and any other related costs	Westford Conservation Commission
\$5,940	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the installation of bike racks at various Town facilities and any other related costs	Healthy Westford Committee
\$176,450	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Healthy Lakes and Ponds Treatment and Water Quality Improvement Program and any other related costs	Westford Healthy Lakes and Ponds Collaborative
\$41,415	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Jack Walsh Tennis and Basketball Court Improvement Design and any other related costs	Westford Parks and Recreation Commission
\$75,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Parkerville Schoolhouse Roof Restoration Project and any other related costs	Westford Historical Commission
\$139,707	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Colonel John Robinson School Playground Play Structure Replacement and any other related costs	Westford Public Schools
\$189,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance for the Robinson Tennis Courts and any other related costs.	Westford Public Schools

Article 9 seeks to amend the non union Wage and Classification Plan

Article 10 seeks to establish the annual limitations on expenditures from revolving accounts

Article 11 seeks to establish the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget in the amount of \$126,569,270

Article 12 seeks to appropriate proceeds from the State under M.G.L. c. 90 for road maintenance

Article 13 seeks to transfer \$33,448 from the Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Stabilization Fund to the Water Enterprise Expenses to pay for Water Department FY23 retiree benefits

Article 14 seeks to authorize the Select Board to accept easements for public access trail, sidewalk, drainage, or other public purposes on certain roads in Westford

Article 15 seeks to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, permanent and/or temporary easements for the Plain Road Sidewalk Project

Article 16 seeks to enable the Select Board to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on certain roadways inside thickly settled under M.G.L. c. 90. §17C

Article 17 seeks to amend the General Bylaws to discontinue the requirement that the Annual Finance Committee book be mailed to all households (it will be available online and in print at certain town buildings). A postcard summarizing each article will be sent to each residence

Article 18 seeks to amend the Zoning Bylaw by adding parcel #483 Groton Road to the Industrial A zoning district

Article 19 seeks to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter a lease at Hill Orchards for up to 5 years

At the Select Board's May 10th meeting, they approved the Town Manager and Finance Committee recommendations including the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget transfers, Fiscal Year 2022 expenditure limit increase for the Agricultural Commission Community Gardens Revolving Fund, and the Fiscal Year 2023 Town Manager budget adjustments.

The board also heard a request from National Grid to remove 44 public shade trees on Forge Village Road for their Storm Hardening and Capital Improvement Project purposes. It was unanimously approved by the board to remove 15 trees and trim the remaining as listed in the Select Board's meeting packet. The Tree Warden will further investigate the oak tree at Hartford and Patten Road.

The Select Board and I recognized our Police Officers and Public Safety Communications Dispatchers for their immediate, effective response during the incident which occurred on Sunday, May 1st at The Mill Works, 22 Town Farm Road.

The board congratulated Divij Kunaparaju and Vamsi Krishna Vetsa of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 159 for earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The grand opening of the Roberta McGuire Residences welcomes seven new senior affordable housing units in Westford at 2 Balsam Circle.

Our Household Hazardous Waste Collection event is this Saturday, May 14th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Public Works Facility located at 28 North Street. To find out more information, you may visit the following link: Westford Household Hazardous Waste Collection Information.

On Tuesday, April 26th, the Select Board continued their review of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests to determine allocations. They were presented with updates on projects approved and funding available to date. The Select Board approved requests at this meeting in the amount of \$829,289 for the following projects:

\$50,000 for Cameron Senior Center HVAC System

\$92,000 for 51 Main Street Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Proposal

\$57,895 for an electric vehicle for our Police Department

\$21,059 to fund a compensatory day off for town employees

\$67,070 for a FY22 substitute daily rate increase

\$10,880 for safety care training for our School Department

\$50,385 for a design plan for Nabnasset walkway and car path

\$30,000 for providing access to after-school care and summer camp to low-income families

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Scholarship and Grant Committee, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Tax Possession Sale Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete and submit a Citizen's Activity form at this link: <u>Citizen Activity Form</u>.

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: Select Board Documents & Select Board Meeting Videos.

I hope to see you at Town Meeting!

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross Town Manager

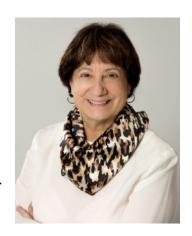


Westford Town Center—1886, Lucien Burleigh Courtesy of Digital Commonwealth Massachusetts Collections Online

From the Moderator

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING! June 11, 2022 at 9:00 am Westford Academy Field Rain Date June 12

I'd like to personally invite you to Town Meeting. If you have never been before, I think you will be surprised at how interesting it is and how much is accomplished. If you are a regular attendee, I welcome you back. Either way, see you then!



Angela Harkness Town Moderator

What's New at Town Meeting

- Food Trucks!
 The Twizted Pickle Food Truck will be serving breakfast and lunch.
 Check out the menu!
- Family Friendly Area
 No sitter? Bring the kids! There will be a Family Friendly Area at the rear of the field.
- New Start Time: 9:00 AM
 Earlier start means that we will end earlier in the day!
- Need Transportation?
 Sign up for free transportation here.

Come and vote your opinion on whether or not the Town should institute the use of electronic vote tabulators to calculate votes at Town Meeting, which will be addressed in Article 1. We will also be voting on the Town budget, a possible reduction of speed limits on certain Town roadways, various Community Preservation Act projects and funding for a new heating system at the Cameron Senior Center, among other things.

DEMOCRACY WORKS BEST WHEN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATE – SEE YOU THERE!



Memorial Day 2022 - Town wide celebration of Memorial Day will be held on Sunday, May 29th. Ceremonies will be conducted at Freedom Park @ 9 AM, Forge Village monument @ 9:15 AM, Graniteville monument on North Main St @ 9:45 and then at Nab Lake, Byrne Ave. dam at 10:45. On the Town Common, the reading of the Honor Rolls will begin at 10:15 AM.

Culminating the village ceremonies will be a parade starting at noon from the Roudenbush Community Center to the Town Common.

Veterans who would like to participate should meet at the Cameron Senior Center at 8 AM on Sunday. All are encouraged to commemorate our US servicemen and servicewomen who have died in defense of our country on this holiday weekend. Join us if you can.

An "event guide" containing parade routes and times will be located on the town website in the Veterans Services Documents, http://westfordma.gov/veterans.

US flags to be placed on veterans graves in May.

American Legion Post #159 members will be putting the US flags up in the weeks prior to Memorial Day. We will do our best to make sure that every veteran's grave is properly marked. Sometimes a flag will be misplaced or unintentionally omitted, please let the Veterans Service Officer know if a flag is missing, we will try and put one in place prior to Memorial Day. The Town of Westford's Military Burial Index can be found at https://data.westfordma.gov/vets/



The flat bronze markers are provided by the VA at no cost, more information on obtaining them can be found at https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/ headstones-markers-medallions/ or by calling/emailing the Veterans Services department. (978) 392-1170 or veterans@westfordma.gov

May at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.



Director's Corner: The Town of Westford will receive a provisional grant notice from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for the Library Construction Project this July 2022, one year earlier than anticipated. Within six months of this notice, critical Committee, Board, Special Town Meeting and ballot votes will be needed to for the community to formally approve this Library Renovation and Expansion Project, and for this project to move forward. Beginning in March 2012, Town Meeting has voted four times to proceed with two separate grants and match grant funding to make this expansion a possibility. Look for updates for more information on the Massachusetts Library Construction Grant Program and Westford's potential expansion plans.

Look for the J.V. Fletcher Library's entry in the Apple Blossom Parade on Sat., May 14. The highly anticipated annual Westford Kiwanis Sponsored Apple Blossom Parade will march along Main Street and down to the Abbot School. This is the event where the Library Children's Dept. entry in the Parade "announces" the theme for their upcoming Children's Summer Reading Program. We hope to see you there!

Book Sale Donations: The Friends of the Library are in need of your gently used items for the June Book Sale! Donate your gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and albums. There is a donation bin outside of the Library's back door where donations may be left anytime or leave your donations outside the sorting room door (just inside the back entrance) For more information about donating to the book sale, please visit the **Book Sale page**.

Friends of the Library June Book Sale: The June Book Sale will take place in the Meeting Room, Friday, June 3-Sunday, June 5. On Friday night from 6:30-9:00 p.m. there will be a Members Only Preview Sale. Memberships will be available to purchase at the door or purchase one <u>online</u>. The sale will be open to the public on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. On Sunday, June 5, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. purchase a bag to fill for \$5.00.

Friends of the Library e-newsletter: The best way to learn about our upcoming programs and new services is through the FOL weekly e-newsletter. Sign up here.

Teen and Tween Crafternoon: Mon., May 16 at 3:30 p.m. It's our last Crafternoon until the Fall! Join us in the Meeting Room to to make mixed-media collages. Snacks provided: please e-mail Jess at jdyment@westfordma.gov if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions. Register here.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., May 23 at 2:00 p.m. We'll meet on the library's back lawn! Please bring your own lawn chair. If it rains, we'll meet on Zoom, and members will receive an email with the link that morning. We'll discuss *The Night Fire* by Michael Connelly. Print copies are available at Main Desk, and the ebook and digital audiobook are on Overdrive. Email Sarah at sregan@westfordma.gov for details.

Library Garden "Check In" with Fresh Start Food Gardens: Wed., May 25 at 4:00 p.m. We will be monitoring the progress in our library garden with Fresh Start Food Gardens - Christine Berthold will be back to help us observe and care for our spring planted garden bags. We can talk about what is growing, what it looks like, did we find any bugs, have the critters left us alone? This fun informational program is for kids ages 4 to 10 with a caregiver. Come and learn how you can help us take care of the library garden! No registration required.

Check out our <u>Museum Passes page</u> or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. <u>Have you joined the Friends yet?</u>

Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

<u>Programs – Adults</u> <u>Programs – Kids</u>

Programs – Young Adults

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.

Town Manager's Newsletter

Cameron Senior Center

The Cameron is a place you will find adults age 55+ taking part in wellness activities, enrichment, and educational programs as well as various support services.



Town Meeting Transportation

The COA Van Service is glad to offer our door-to-door service to residents (all ages) who need a ride to Annual Town meeting on Saturday, June 11th at 9AM located at the WA field. If you wish to reserve a ride, please use the below link. Donations are appreciated.

https://www.westfordma.gov/FormCenter/Senior-Center-19/Transportation-Request-for-Town-Meeting-74

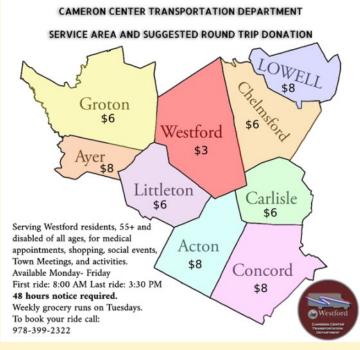
FOXS Tours sponsors ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM TRIP

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 9AM leaving from the FRANCO-American Club

Isabella Stewart Gardner was herself a most interesting person whose life story made her a center of attention, and sometimes

controversy! You'll be accompanied by a Museum Tour Guide who will provide expert artistic commentary as you explore the Museum today. After our museum visit, your driver will conduct a drive by tour of the Boston Common, the State House, Public Garden and

Cost: \$119PP- Please RSVP to 978-692-5523



enjoy a delicious Luncheon at Venezia.

T.R.E.A.D.

Applications will be available at the Senior Center in May this year and will be **DUE ON AUGUST 30th.** Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled is a donation funded program for property tax relief. Applicants must be 65 years or older OR have a state recognized disability and must own and occupy their home. The T.R.E.A.D. Committee will meet to determine awards in December 2022. If you have any questions about the program or need application assistance, call Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2325 or Annette Cerullo at 978-399-2326.

Spotlight on Emotional Wellness-Skills for EVERYONE with Lisa Wessan, LICSW, RM, CLYL

Based on the premise that every thought becomes a chemical reaction in your body, this 6-session workshop offers a multimodal approach to improve your ability to recover your emotional balance and feel healthier, more peaceful, and relaxed. Call to sign up at 978-692-5523.

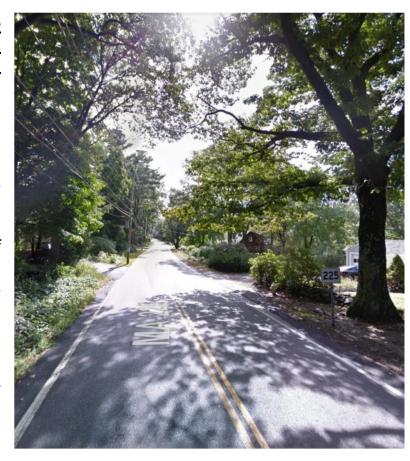
MAY SESSION-May 13th 1-3PM: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Mindfulness Skills Part 2: The "HOW" Skills; How to be Non-judgmental; How to practice Radical Acceptance; How to stay in the present moment; How to be more effective, willing, compassionate; How to be less willful and impulsive. Review the spiritual dimension of Wise Mind, guided group meditation.

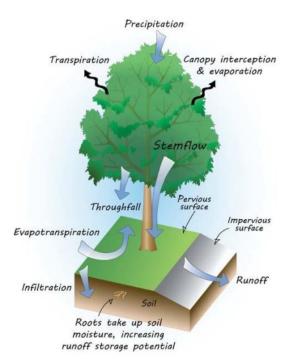
To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit Newsletters on our web page.

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC)

Westford Is Focused On Trees

The CEASC continued outreach for the Tree and Invasive Species Inventory and Management Plan and Tree Planting Plan. as well as education on Garlic Mustard and invasive species, at the Earth Day Festival, using the break out group exercises from the public forum conducted virtually on April 14th. View presentation the forum materials here. Additional resources on the project and the grant, funded as part of the Municipal Vulnerability Program through the Massachusetts Executive Office Energy and Environmental Affairs, may be This action grant addresses found here. vulnerabilities identified in Westford's Municipal Vulnerability Plan. Our land use choices impact how clean our air and water are, how much impact weather events will have, and how much health and property damage we will sustain, with a changing climate.





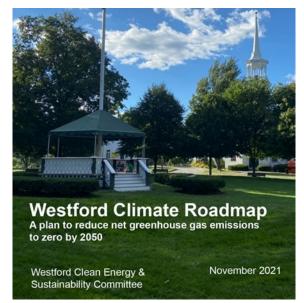
Watch for more information this summer and attend the second public forum in the fall to help shape the project.

Visit our webpage at:

Clean-Energy-and-Sustainability-Committee

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (Continued)

Watch the Westford Climate Roadmap Community Forum!



Webinar Recording Available

Westford has a plan to fight climate change! Watch a recording of this webinar to find out about the specific steps residents, businesses and municipal leaders can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve sustainability. The Roadmap was developed by Westford's Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC).

Please feel free to contact us with questions and feedback. This webinar was sponsored by the CEASC and Westford Climate Action.

Links to the webinar, the Roadmap and other climate and sustainability resources can be found on the <u>Westford</u> <u>Climate Roadmap webpage</u>.

Earth Day 2022 was a big success!



The Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee joined twenty other organizations on Westford Common on Earth Day, April 22, for a celebration that drew hundreds of attendees. Several speakers took the stage to encourage sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction and family friendly activities and local bands provided entertainment for all.



Health Department

Did you know that May is National Mental Health Awareness Month?

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger or experiencing a medical emergency Call 911

Mental Health Illness Warning Signs and Symptoms

https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Warning-Signs-and-Symptoms

Mental Health Conditions

https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Mental-Health-Conditions

Mental Illness Treatments

https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Treatments

Mental Health statistics

https://www.nami.org/mhstats

Pledge To Be Stigma Free

Are you inspired to build better lives for those affected by mental illness. I'm #StigmaFree. Are you? www.nami.org/stigmafree

Take Action

https://nami.quorum.us/action_center/

Mental Health Resources

https://interface.williamjames.edu/

https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/Images/FactSheets/2021-Resource-Directory.pdf

For additional information you may contact:

Regional Community Health and Wellness Coordinator, Brittany Nash Work (978) 399-2564 bnash@westfordma.gov

Health Department (Continued)



The Westford Board of Health is currently participating in a collaborative Public Health Excellence Grant which includes Westford, Acton, Dracut, and Lowell, MA. Our shared Regional Community Health and Wellness Coordinator (RCHAWC), Brittany Nash has recently become a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Our RCHAWC is excited to provide this training to the residents of Westford, Acton, Dracut, and Lowell, MA.

The Youth Mental Health First Aid training teaches adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18.

Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Youth Mental Health First Aid helps you assist children and adolescents ages 12-18 experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Youth Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help the youth in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

For upcoming training information:

Contact Brittany Nash at bnash@westfordma.gov

Mental Health Resources

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger or experiencing a medical emergency Call 911

https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/mental-health-resources/

To learn more about Youth Mental Health First Aid you can visit: https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/population-focused-modules/youth/



Health Department (Continued)

Happy Nurse's Week

to our Public Health Nurse Gail Johnson, our town's school nurses, our two Board of Health nurses, and all the MRC nurses!!!!

Free IN-PERSON EVENT for ALL Residents:

Monday, May 23rd, 7 to 9 PM - Stony Brook School Auditorium, 9 Farmer's Way, Westford Protecting our Tweens and Teens: Anxiety Awareness and Suicide Prevention. (Co-hosted with UMV MRC, Westford Health Dept. and Westford Schools.) Doors open at 6 for light refreshments in lobby. Presentation by Jon Mattleman, M.S.; Stony Brook School Auditorium, 9 Farmer's Way, Westford. Confirmed 2.4 nursing CEUs and 2 OEMS hours, awaiting word on 2 CMEs for social workers.

EventBrite registration as a courtesy:

www.eventbrite.com/e/protecting-our-teens-and-tweens-anxiety-awareness-and-suicide-prevention-tickets-324340901367

Westford Health Department-Medical Reserve Corp Volunteers



The Westford Health Department is the host agent for the region's Medical Reserve Corps unit. The Upper Merrimack Valley MRC was launched in September 2003. through a federal demonstration grant. Since March 2004, Nancy Burns has been the coordinator of the local unit and Rae Dick is the new MRC Director. The communities covered are Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford. The UMV MRC was one of the first ten units in MA and has grown to 675 volunteers.

The past two years have focused almost non-stop on COVID-19 activities. Among many initiatives, volunteers picked up groceries and medications for the elderly, made well-check calls, supported vaccination clinics, distributed test kits, collaborated on an extensive PPE project, delivered meals, offered community education, and provided free blood pressure screenings. More recently, instructors from the MRC taught four AHA First Aid and CPR classes for municipal employees.

- This unit received a competitive \$10,000 ORA: Operational Readiness Award. Funds will be used to cultivate mission-ready teams that provide medical screening and care in emergencies. Members will learn transferrable skills that can be used across a range of disaster responses.
- On April 1, the UMV MRC became recipients of the new RISE (Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip) Awards: \$75,000 for a capacity-building grant. The goal is to strengthen overall response capabilities. Key features include collaboration with response partners and affiliates, in-depth training and drills on myriad topics, and purchase of essential supplies.
- Our MRC Coordinator, Nancy Burns received a scholarship with which to attend the annual NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, where she gave two presentations. Between sessions, she was informed that she'd been selected to receive the prestigious national Elizabeth Fitch Memorial Leadership award, to be presented in a recognition ceremony on April 19. With 800 MRC units and 300,000 volunteers across the nation, being chosen is an incredible honor!



Westford Coalition for Non-Violence

Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, (WCNV) in conjunction with, the Westford Police Association, and the Westford Health Department put together Mother's Day baskets for the women staying at domestic violence shelters. The Alternative House provides comprehensive domestic violence services to the Greater Lowell area and all donated items will be distributed through the Alternative House to these mothers.

WCNV is a coalition comprised of Town of Westford community members, employees, and survivors of domestic violence. Our mission is "promoting safety and peace in Westford through ongoing conversations and awareness raising activities, reducing isolation, and fostering community connectedness."

If you, or someone you know, is being abused call the national domestic violence hotline for help 1-800-799-7233 or 24-hour crisis hotline: 1-888-291-6228 or local line: 1-978-454-1436.

There is **NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE!**



Pictured on the left Aimee Larochelle, Community Education & Outreach Coordinator, Alternative House and Gail Johnson, Public Health Nurse, Westford Health Dept & Chair of WCNV











Protect yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19.

Get vaccinated and stay up to date.



The best protection against COVID-19 is staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines. That means being fully vaccinated and getting a booster. Fully vaccinated people are much less likely to get sick or spread the virus that causes COVID-19, especially if they have their booster shot.

Learn more at mass.gov/CovidVaccine

Take a test.



Testing for COVID-19 is widely available, including at-home rapid tests. Get tested if you have symptoms.

Learn more at mass.gov/GetTested

Get treatment.



If you test positive, talk to your doctor right away about treatment options that are available for people who have mild to moderate symptoms.

Learn more at mass.gov/CovidTreatments

Stay home when you are sick.



Staying home helps prevent the spread of illness.

Mask up if you need to.



Learn more at mass.gov/MaskUpMA

Enable MassNotify on your Smartphone.



MassNotify is an anonymous tool that works to alert users who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Learn more at mass.gov/MassNotify

Wash your hands.



Wash your hands often with soap and warm water. Or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Learn more at mass.gov/CovidVaccine





Recycling Commission

- With a round of applause to our partners at Westford Climate Action, we submit the wonderful information they put together as authored by Susan Thomas.





Reduce Your Carbon Footprint! ABOUT YOUR TRASH

Westford's trash is incinerated, adding to both our carbon footprint and our tax burden. You recently received the 2021-2022 Westford Recycling Guide in the mail – keep it near your trash or on your fridge for easy reference!

Your best source for information about recycling and the town's recycling programs is the Recycling Commission's website: westfordma.gov/recycling

REDUCE

- Use your market power and your vote. Let companies and government officials know you care about your carbon footprint and want them to support initiatives to reduce it.
- 2. Think about waste as a cost when making purchases reduce!
- 3. Buy less consider if you need it (vs want it), or borrow, rent, or repair instead.
- 4. Choose items in minimal packaging (bulk foods, package-free products) and let your favorite producers know you prefer less waste.
- 5. Buy reusable items rather than disposables.
- 6. Substitute manual tools/appliances for electric ones.

REUSE

- 7. Repurpose/reuse. Be creative!
- 8. Sell, share, or donate anything still functional (identify charities, Facebook groups, marketplaces, consignment shops, etc.)
- 9. Don't throw clothing or cloth in the trash. Textiles can be reused and recycled, even if they are torn or stained. Drop them off, in bags, in the yellow metal collection bins at Abbot School (25 Depot St, right parking lot, near the base of the field); Blanchard School (near the school exit at 14 West St.); and Roudenbush at Old Nab (in front of the tennis courts at 170 Plain Rd.). Textiles make up 6% of trash statewide.

RECYCLE

- 10.Review the Recycling Commission's Collection Information webpage (westfordma.gov/715/Recycling-Curbside) for items you can recycle curbside. For recycling, use the black and yellow toter, or, if you don't have one, use any container and mark it RECYCLE. 30% of the items in the trash statewide could have been recycled curbside.
- 11.Compost your food and yard waste on your property. Buy an Earth Machine compost bin from the Recycling Commission (westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2939/Home-Composting- PDF). Food waste is heavy, expensive, and your yard will thank you. Food waste makes up to 25% of trash statewide and is a terrible waste in so many ways.
- 12. Note the town's trash diversion events and attend! Start a collection spot by category: electronics and metals, hazardous waste, etc. Events are free or charge a nominal fee. Visit westfordma.gov/recycling for details.

Westford Recreation

Westford Partnership for Children

Recreation's WPC program provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment for school children, grades K-8, during the afterschool hours. The WPC program offers:

- Choice of activities
- Flexible schedules
- Safe and easy transition from classroom to program
- Experienced Site Directors and staff

WPC runs Monday-Friday, school dismissal to 5:45 p.m., with locations at Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, Robinson, and Stony Brook Middle School.

WPC provides bus transportation from Blanchard to Stony Brook.

Register for any session, at any time.

Learn more at About WPC at westfordrec.com

Seasonal Programs for Youth and Adults

Learn more about Recreation's upcoming seasonal programs, to include On the Mark Archery (New!), CPR and First Aid, Flag Football, Golf, Nitehawks Track & Field, Speed & Agility, Swimming Instruction, and the Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Program, offering classes for all levels and age groups, at Robinson and Stony Brook tennis courts.

Learn more at Programs on westfordrec.com.

Summer Weekly Programs

ENJOY NINE WEEKS OF SUMMER FUN!

Summer Beach Party at D.E.

Summer program coverage just when you need it – the last week in June and in mid-August.

Kids Club

Fast-paced, fun-filled activities for children at all levels.

Destination Exploration at EBC

Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting at East Boston Camps.

Programs offer flexible full week schedules, early arrival, extended day, and swim lesson options.

Learn more at Summer Weekly Programs on westfordrec.com.



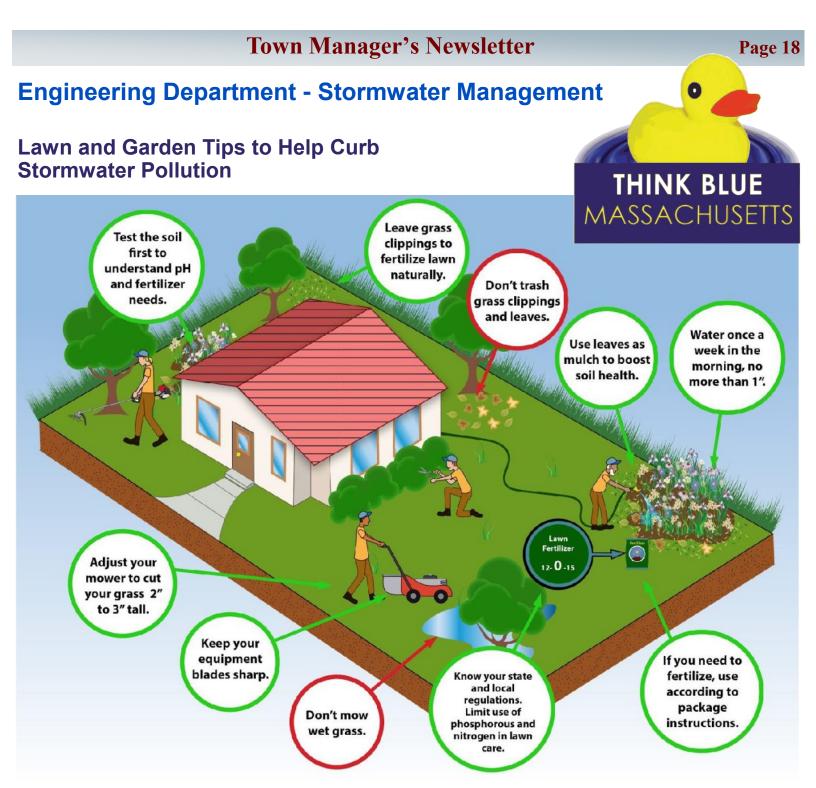
Top to Bottom:

Dancin' at Mel's Funway this May, Recreation Special Program; Strumming under the moon, WPC Crisafulli; Photo Break! Kids Club Summer Weekly Program



At Recreation's **Summer Weekly Programs**, kids will enjoy activities that relax and engage, like arts & crafts at the Nab, or swimming and s'mores at East Boston Camps. Our Site Directors and counselors focus on safety and positivity, supporting each child as they enjoy new experiences.

For more about Westford Recreation, visit westfordma.gov. For recreation programming and registration, visit westfordrec.com. Westford Recreation, 65 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886 | 978-692-5532



Under Massachusetts law, only apply fertilizer with phosphorus if:

- 1. A soil test shows that phosphorus is needed; or
- 2. During the first growing season for a newly established lawn.

Contact the UMass Cooperative Extension Soil Nutrient Testing Laboratory to learn how to conduct a routine soil test:

https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms

Learn more at: www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org

Engineering Department - Stormwater Management (continued)

Healthy Lawns – Healthy Water

Use Zero-Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer! It's the Law!

Phosphorus runoff poses a threat to water quality. Therefore, under Massachusetts Law, phosphorus-containing fertilizer may only be applied to lawn or non-agricultural turf when:

- a soil test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for the growth of that lawn or non-agricultural turf; or
- is used for <u>newly established</u> lawn or non-agricultural turf during the first growing season.

Most lawns in Massachusetts do not need additional phosphorus for healthy growth.

Look for the "Zero" to Protect Our Waters



Check the fertilizer bag for a set of three numbers representing the percentage of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K).

Buy the bag with a "0" in the middle: Zero Phosphorus!

Visit <u>www.mass.gov/agr</u> for more information and resources on plant nutrient management.

